



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting  
 Platt Park – Front Shelter  
 Monday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 5:15 PM

**Park and Recreation** [www.oelweinparks.org](http://www.oelweinparks.org)

**Call to Order:** 5:15pm

**Roll Call:** Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi

**Attending:** Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi

**Absent:** Jorgensen

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting:

Motion:     Meska   2<sup>nd</sup>:     Stasi  
  
 Aye:         All   Nay:     None

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Lau Memorial Bench-Northwest trail north end of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave:** Johnson stated that Carig Lau would like to purchase a memorial bench to place along the south side of the new trail segment on 6<sup>th</sup> street northwest. The bench would be located on the south side of the trail and face to the north if approved.

- Consideration of a motion approving the Lau memorial bench for the northwest trail on the north end of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

Motion:     Meska   2<sup>nd</sup>:     Stasi  
  
 Aye:         All   Nay:     None

**OHS Class of 1981 Memorial Bench-Wings Park:** Johnson stated that Lori Suckow would like to purchase a memorial bench on behalf of the class of 1981, around the playground equipment at Wings Park.

- Consideration of a motion approving the OHS class of 1981 memorial bench near the playground equipment at Wings Park:

Motion:     Meska   2<sup>nd</sup>:     Stasi  
  
 Aye:         All   Nay:     None

Johnson stated that they picked up the Pirillo and Latham benches this past week.

**Trails Update:** Johnson stated that he applied for trail funding through upper explorer land and was not selected as the backbone regional trail is the committee’s priority. Johnson stated he and the trails committee are working on their REAP proposal for this year once again for trail segment 2 which they are planning on completing next season. Johnson stated that he took the REAP proposal to the council for approval and then travelled to Fayette to get county approval before he submitted the proposal to the state. Johnson stated that they held a meeting at the park building this month with the trails committee to go over progress. Johnson stated that they are preparing to talk with the railroad about segment 1c, segment 2 and the future crossing on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW once again.

**Aquatics Update:** At the pool, Johnson replaced a supply line for the pressure switch on Saturday morning that was leaking. At the pool we held our monthly safety meeting and review on a Sunday morning. At this meeting the guards practiced back boarding, CPR training, and various water skills. At the pool the fill line was redirected to the surge tank as part of the recommendations from the state inspector and the flow meter will be replaced once contractors get it in. Johnson stated the first round of swim lessons with the summer school program with 139 kids, the second round of swim lessons had 17 kids enrolled and there were 56 enrolled in

the last session (212) that are wrapping up in July. Johnson stated that they conducted 31 private lessons at the pool this summer and have a dozen pool parties completed/scheduled. Johnson stated that the swim team utilized the pool facility in July for the third and final meet of the year. Johnson stated that they have sold 181 season passes while giving away 67 season passes to city employees (248). Johnson stated that they concluded the season on Sunday with dog dip. Johnson stated that all the staff did a great job this season as they opened on time and did not have to cut back on services to accommodate worker shortages. Johnson said the concessions employees and front desk employees did a great job as well. Johnson stated that having the new CPR manikins readily available that they received through a grant will be a great asset to the department. Johnson stated the free day sponsored through Buchanan County Health was a great event that brought in 557 people to the pool that day as Fareway, Dollar Fresh and a few citizens donated food to sell meals that day.

**Parks / Cemetery Update:** Johnson stated that this past month the park and cemetery employees have been busy mowing and trimming all areas as the rain and heat persist. The park employees picked up a new seat bench for the Stasi family as they purchased a new back for their existing bench with an additional plaque on it. The park employees pulled foundations for a playground area that the frost heaved up the foundation and reset everything at Wings Park. At the pool Johnson replaced a supply line for the pressure switch on Saturday morning. This past month there was heavy rain once again that caused some minor flooding at City Park that finally receded the next Monday morning. The park employees removed part of a messy birch tree at the pool that did not come back this year. This week we had our monthly safety meeting at the park office where we watched videos on chainsaw safety and extreme heat. The cemetery employees power sprayed all their mowers this week to keep them clean and running efficiently.

On the third evening of the month, Johnson hosted the monthly tree board meeting at the park building where they talked about upcoming tree planting events and possible grants that Johnson is getting quotes on. At Wings Park, the playground equipment that was unfortunately set on fire was removed this past month and disposed of. The employees have been patching roads at City Park and evened out the gravel roads at the cemetery. Nate has been busy spraying needed areas as the weather has been great for weed growth and the park employees have been weeding downtown in the mornings.

The park employees spruced up the front of the pool with some new mulch that brightened things up. The cemetery employees took the sweeper and cleaned the streets at Woodlawn, and we fixed a water line leak as well. I had Nate take the sickle mower around and trim trails, parks and waterways this past week. The park employees took the tree spade and moved three evergreen bushes to the sports complex that Charlie Rochford donated to the city. The campground had a small water leak that was fixed the next morning. The park employees have been taking down trees that have expired in recent years as they have been concentrating their efforts mainly on ash tree removal. At the park shop, they went through our area and discarded old pallets and cleaned up the area, graded it and organized everything back into where it needs to go. We have been putting extra time into the sports complex this week for the circus that is going to be out there this weekend. The trails and skate park were swept again like they are every week. The campground is doing well as business has been picking up recently. Johnson stated that Carrico Aquatics installed a new flow meter that ties into the water controller and gives a digital readout. The employees have been busy taking down various dead trees in various parks. The employees repaired a small water leak at the campground from where a camper tried leaving with their water hose still hooked up. A water leak was repaired at the cemetery that required us to shut down the system for a day to make the repair. Everyone chipped in as we cleaned up the shop area behind the building.

This month they spent extra time at the complex trimming, spraying and dressing up the parking lot so that everything was nice for the circus event there this past weekend. The employees moved the dumpster and supplied extra garbage cans for the event, as they did a good job of cleaning up the area before leaving on Sunday. This week we were an employee short, but they still completed mowing all the properties in a timely manner. Trail counts were collected and included in our monthly report that was submitted. At Redgate, the employees brought in some new sand for the volleyball court and sprayed the park for weeds. Nate took the harley rake and dressed up the volleyball court and the parking areas, so it all looks nice for Italian days this weekend. At the pool they hosted four pool rentals this past week as we wind down the season. The final day is set for Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>, with the dog dip the final two hours like we do every season. On Monday, Johnson met with the tree board where we discussed our upcoming tree plantings and future planting tree selection. Johnson talked with the board about planting the gravel bed trees next month as AmeriCorps is sending a group to the

city on September 13<sup>th</sup> for a day to help with a project. The downtown gets cleaned every day and trails and skate park swept every Friday. Johnson has been working on a federal grant for funding to replace lost ash trees in parks and street right of way for the next three years.

At Platt Park they are working on removing a large silver maple that has split off and needs to come down next to the playground equipment. They will finish the rest of the tree after the rain passes and the area dries back up. Nate has been weed spraying various areas on city properties. The employees did take a minute to power spray their mowers to keep them clean and operating efficiently. Nate has been installing signage as part of the bike trail that extends from the aquatic center to the trail in the northwest off 6<sup>th</sup> street. The pool is wrapping up a great season on Sunday afternoon. Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>, they hosted the annual dog dip at the pool from 4-6pm. Trails and skate park were swept like they always are.

**Board Member Updates:** Discussion about the direction of the recreation program continued.

**Adjournment:** 6:02pm

**Next Meeting:** September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Additional Information:** None

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